

What is claimed is:

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A17
1. A software application for populating and submitting interactive forms  
by proxy, comprising;
    - a function for finding and capturing data about a site associated with  
the form and about the form associated with the site;
    - a function for writing a job order containing data specific to the site,  
the associated form, and a requesting user;
    - 10 a function for navigating to the site and submitting data to a host  
sponsoring the site using the form associated with the site; and
    - a function for returning and recording a portion of the form-  
submitted data accepted by the host for subsequent use in gaining access to  
the site.
  - 15 2. The software application of claim 1 wherein the site is an interactive  
information-page located on a data-packet-network.
  3. The software application of claim 2 wherein the site is an electronic WEB  
20 page and the data-packet-network is the Internet network.
  4. The software application of claim 2 wherein the form is an interactive  
registration form contained within the site.
  - 25 5. The software application of claim 4 wherein the host is a company  
providing a service available through the site and accessible through the form  
contained in the site.

6. The software application of claim 3 wherein all of the software functions are resident in a single server-node on the Internet and are executed from the single server-node.

5 7. The software application of claim 3 wherein certain software functions are distributed over a plurality of server nodes on the Internet and are executed from those server nodes.

10 8. The software application of claim 3 wherein the job order is written in the form of eXtensible mark-up language.

9. A hardware-software system for configuring and executing a job order for populating and submitting an interactive form to a host and returning data from the host comprising;

15 a portal server running configuration software for interfacing with a user and for accepting data input in the form of an order request and configuration data;

a generation sever running order-writing software for generating the job order according to a job request initiated by the portal server;

20 a navigation server running form population software for executing the job order received from the generation server according to instruction and data contained therein; and

a data repository accessible to the servers for recording, storing and serving data, such that a user connected to the portal server and utilizing the configuration software may obtain data about a site and about an associated  
25 interactive form, the data ultimately made available along with user data to the generation server which writes the job order for execution by the navigation server, and wherein accepted form-submitted data is returned by

the navigation server to the data repository and recorded for subsequent access to the site.

10. The hardware-software system of claim 9 wherein the host is a company  
5 maintaining an interactive information page located on a data-packet-network.

11. The hardware-software system of claim 10 wherein the interactive  
10 information page is an electronic WEB page available on the Internet.

12. The hardware-software system of claim 11 wherein the form is an  
interactive registration form provided in the electronic WEB page.

13. The hardware-software system of claim 12 wherein the job order is  
15 written in eXtensible mark-up language.

14. The hardware-software system of claim 10 wherein a separate and  
dedicated data network inter-connects the server-nodes for communication.

15. A method for populating and submitting an interactive form by proxy  
20 comprising the steps of;

- (a) obtaining data specific to a form, a site, and a requesting user;
- (b) writing a job order for navigating to the site for the purpose of  
populating and submitting the form to a host associated with the site; and
- 25 (c) executing the job order.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein in step (a), the site is an electronic

information page hosted on the Internet and the form is an electronic form located within the information page.

17. The method of claim 14 wherein in step (b), the job order is written in eXtensible mark-up language.

18. The method of claim 14 wherein step (c) includes a sub-execution for obtaining data from the site after successful form submission to the host sponsoring the site.

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